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Letters To the Editor

Doesn't Dislike U. S.

To the N. Y. Herald Tribune:

Your editorial "How's Your Prestige Today?" (on Oct. 28) contained a reference to my supposed dislike of the United States. May I ask you, of your kindness, sir, to allow me the privilege of refurbishing my somewhat sullied prestige within your columns?

The quote was taken from an article about the writer in an American magazine. I beguiled the young lady interviewer, as we lunched, with my more amusing experiences in New York during my first visit in '51 and again during my present stay. . . . (I have been here since October '58.)

I told her about the waiter, at Lindy's, who, impatient with my consideration of the menu said, "When you've finished looking at the cheaper prices perhaps you'll order huh?" I laughed at this seeming impertinence and my companion explained the "routine" one may be exposed to in that fine establishment. I also described the chagrin of the waiter, in a well known Manhattan eatamnet, who chilled my bottle of Bordeaux!

I regaled her with my "stupidity" in giving phone numbers as e.g., "Four three double-oh" and learning to say "Four three hundred." . . . Discovering that I am called RORSE Parker and denying the 'Ralph'-'Ruff'-'Rock' queries attendant upon my too English English!

My reference to the martinet of a schoolmarm in New Jersey, who insisted that my children should bring 'fruit every other day and vegetables in between!' Who taught outmoded longdivision and, after my protest, struck a Lincolnian pose and declared that "America has the finest educators and educational system in the w-o-o-rld!" gave the young lady to smile. . . .

I remarked that the methods of slaughtering in Manhattan were not as humane as Mr. and Mrs. New Yorker might suppose whilst seasoning their T-bones! I admitted that my information was by way of hearsay—but American!

The mention of my address to a food corporation convention in this city also made the young lady smile . . . when I told her that I had asked "Where did the flavour go when size, colour and shape became so . . . -fired important?" Certain of the butchers came up to me afterwards and, off the record, agreed with me. (Chicagoans and New Yorkers!)

This, then, the "indictment" Mr. Editor! In truth, I respect and admire your country and its people. I am rich in American friends and replete with their many kindnesses. . . . Those of them who truly know me will not suffer my "prestige" to go unchallenged. . . . Those of you who truly know we "stolid British" are aware that we are your greatest admirers and friends. . . . BE-CAUSE of U-2s and summits and rockets. . . . Yes! . . . and baseball and Messrs. Kennedy and Nixon . . . and 'burgers and Cokes. . . . NOT in spite of them!

C. ROSS PARKER

New York,

(Mr. Parker, a composer and comedian who wrote "There'll Always Be An England," is currently appearing in the Broadway musical "La Plume de Ma Tante." He has applied for United States citizenship.—Ed.)

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